

RICK SNYDER GOVERNOR NICK A. KHOURI
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Michigan Infrastructure Council Announces Appointment of Water Asset Management Council Members

Water Asset Management Council a 'Critical Piece of Asset Management Plan'

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Infrastructure Council recently announced that they have appointed the first members to the Water Asset Management Council.

"The Water Asset Management Council's work will be a critical piece of our complete infrastructure asset management plan," said John Weiss, chairman of the Michigan Infrastructure Council. "I thank the individuals who have been appointed for their commitment to take on such an important and urgent topic that will affect all Michiganders."

Supported by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the nine-member Water Asset Management Council advises the Michigan Infrastructure Council on water-related infrastructure topics. Together, the Water and Transportation asset management councils will advise the Michigan Infrastructure Council on a statewide asset management strategy and develop templates for transportation, drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater asset management planning.

The Water Asset Management Council members include:

- Scott House, director of public works for the city of East Lansing. He will represent the Michigan Municipal League.
- Cameron Van Wyngarden, superintendent for Plainfield Charter Township. He will represent the Michigan Townships Association.
- Scott Noesen, commissioner on the Midland County Board of Commissioners. He will represent the Michigan Association of Counties.
- Evan Pratt P.E., Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner. He will represent the Michigan Association of Drain Commissioners.

- Sue McCormick, chief executive officer of the Great Lakes Water Authority. She will represent a regional drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater authority.
- Carrie Cox, chief engineer in the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner's Office. She will represent a water infrastructure association.
- Doug LaFave, assistant city manager for the city of East Grand Rapids. He will represent a member with drinking water, wastewater, or storm water asset management experience.
- Jane Fitzpatrick, program manager with the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments. She will represent a region.
- Aaron Keatley, chief deputy director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. He will represent the department.

The Michigan Infrastructure Council appoints members of the Water Asset Management Council. The Michigan State Transportation Commission appoints the Transportation Asset Management Council.

Under <u>state law</u>, the Michigan Infrastructure Council was created within the state Treasury Department to bring together local utility and infrastructure owners, regional representatives, finance and policy experts, and state department leaders to coordinate infrastructure-related goals and develop a long-term strategy for Michigan's infrastructure assets.

The council will construct the statewide asset management database, facilitate the data collection strategy and produce a 30-year infrastructure investment and management strategy for the state of Michigan.

The council consists of nine voting members, with <u>five who are appointed by the governor and four who are appointed by the leaders of the legislature</u>. At the first meeting on Sept. 6, council members elected John Weiss, who serves as the executive director of the Grand Valley Metro Council in West Michigan, as chairperson and Kathleen Lomako, who serves as the executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments in Southeast Michigan, as vice-chairperson.

Michigan was the first state in the nation to implement a coordinated effort to better manage the state's drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation, and private utilities <u>under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder</u>.

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Contacts:

Ms. Danelle Gittus (gittusd@michigan.gov) or Mr. Ron Leix (leixr@michigan.gov)

Press Hotline: 517-335-2167